

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Proposed Construction of a Glass
 Factory at Mitterberg, Land Salzburg

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- 25X1 1. Ernst KOLB, Austrian Minister of Trade, visited the site of the Mitterberg glass factory on 25 January 1950, accompanied by Engr. Ferdinand WINTERSBERGER, Director General of Stoelzle Glasindustrie A.G. and Friedrich LORENZ, Austrian Director General of the USIA-controlled Brunner Glasfabrik.
2. As a result of this visit, both WINTERSBERGER and LORENZ decided to oppose the Mitterberg glass factory project on the grounds that a second Austrian glass factory would be a poor investment. Both men obviously are afraid the Mitterberg factory might ruin their own business. KOLB reminded WINTERSBERGER and LORENZ that 1,500,000 schillings had already been invested in the project, that construction had started, and consequently that it was too late to disapprove the plan in its entirety. Thereupon, LORENZ and WINTERSBERGER suggested that if the Mitterberg factory confined its production to the manufacture of specific types of glass which the Austrian market requires, notably "Sekurit", a type used for automobile windows, their firms might consider investing in the Mitterberg project.
3. KOLB directed WINTERSBERGER to submit a written report on these proposals. KOLB also directed the Foreign Trade Commission to postpone action on applications which Josef REHRL and his business associates have filed to import machinery for the Mitterberg plant.
4. On 2 February 1950 LORENZ informed Section Chief Eugen LANSER of the Trade Ministry that he had been authorized by Dimitri SEMIROV, Soviet Director of USIA's Construction and Building Materials Administration, to inform the Ministry of Trade that USIA will release to the Austrian economy the entire production of USIA's Brunner Glasfabrik if the Mitterberg project is abandoned. LORENZ did not mention glass imports from the West nor did he make any statement regarding USIA's prices for its glass products.
5. Officials of the Ministry of Trade believe that within the next few weeks KOLB will announce a final decision on the Mitterberg glass factory.

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